

WEE

- He wand'ring feeds
On slowly growing herbs and ranker weeds. *Sandys.*
Too much manuring fill'd that field with weeds,
While fests, like locusts, did destroy the seeds. *Denham.*
Stinking weeds and poisonous plants have their use. *More.*
When they are cut, let them lie, if weedy, to kill the
weeds. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
Their virtue, like their Tyber's flood
Rolling, its course design'd the country's good;
But oft the torrent's too impetuous speed,
From the low earth tore some polluting weed;
And with the blood of Jove there always ran
Some viler part, some tincture of the man. *Prior.*
2. [Weeda, Saxon; weed, Dutch.] A garment; cloaths; habit;
drefs. Now scarce in use, except in *widow's weeds*, the mourn-
ing drefs of a widow. *Sidney.*
My mind for *weeds* your virtue's livery wears. *Sidney.*
Neither is it any man's business to cloath all his servants
with one *weed*; nor theirs to cloath themselves so, if left to
their own judgments. *Hooker.*
They meet upon the way
An aged fire, in long black *weeds* yclad;
His feet all bare, his beard all hoary gray,
And by his belt his book he hanging had. *Fairy Queen.*
Livery is also called the upper *weed* which a serving man
wears, so called as it was delivered and taken from him at
pleasure. *Spenser.*
The snake throws her enamelled skin,
Weed wide enough to wrap a fairy in. *Shakespeare.*
Throngs of knights and barons hold,
In *weeds* of peace high triumphs hold,
With store of ladies. *Milton.*
Lately your fair hand in woman's *weed*
Wrapp'd my glad head. *Waller.*
To WEED. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To rid of noxious plants.
When you sow the berries of bays, *weed* not the borders
for the first half year; for the weed giveth them shade. *Bacon.*
Your feedings having flood 'till June, bestow a *weeding* or
a light howing upon them. *Mortimer.*
2. To take away noxious plants.
Oh Marcius,
Each word thou'lt spoke hath *weeded* from my heart
A root of ancient envy. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*
3. To free from any thing hurtful or offensive.
He *weeded* the kingdom of such as were devoted to Elaiana,
and manumiz'd it from that most dangerous confederacy.
Howel's Vocal Forest.
Sarcasms, contumelies, and invectives, fill so many pages
of our controversial writings, that, were those *weeded* out,
many volumes would be reduced to a more moderate bulk and
temper. *Decay of Piety.*
4. To root out vice.
Wife fathers be not as well aware in *weeding* from their
children ill things, as they were before in grafting in them
learning. *Sham's Schoolmaster.*
One by one, as they appeared, they might all be *weeded*
out, without any signs that ever they had been there. *Locke.*
WEEDER. *n. f.* [from *weed*.] One that takes away any thing
noxious.
A *weeder* out of his proud adversaries,
A liberal rewarder of his friends. *Shakespeare, Richard III.*
WEEDHOOK. *n. f.* [from *weed* and *hook*.] A hook by which weeds
are cut away or extirpated.
In May get a *weedhook*, a crotch, and a glove,
And weed out such weeds as the corn doth not love. *Tusser.*
WEEDLESS. *adj.* [from *weed*.] Free from weeds; free from
any thing useless or noxious.
So many *weedless* paradises be,
Which of themselves produce no venomous sin. *Donne.*
A crystal brook,
When troubled most it does the bottom show;
'Tis *weedless* all above, and rockless all below. *Dryden.*
WEEDY. *adj.* [from *weed*.]
1. Consisting of weeds.
There on the pendant boughs, her coronet weed
Clamb'ring to hang, an envious sliver broke,
When down her *weedy* trophies and herself
Fell in the weeping brook. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*
2. Abounding with weeds.
Hid in a *weedy* lake all night I lay,
Secure of safety. *Dryden's En.*
If it is *weedy*, let it lie upon the ground. *Mortimer.*
WEEK. *n. f.* [from *weke*, Dutch; *wecka*, Swedish.]
The space of seven days.
Fulfil her *week*, and we will give thee this also. *Gen. xxix.*
WEEKDAY. *n. f.* [from *week* and *day*.] Any day not Sunday.
One solid dish his *weekday* meal affords.
An added pudding solemniz'd the Lord's. *Pope.*
WEEKLY. *adj.* [from *week*.] Happening, produced, or done
once a week; hebdomadary.

WEE

- The Jews had always their *weekly* readings of the law of
Moses. *Hooker.*
So liv'd our fires, ere doctors learn'd to kill,
And multiply'd with heirs their *weekly* bill. *Dryden.*
Nothing more frequent in their *weekly* papers, than affecting
to confound the terms of clergy and high-church, and then
loading the latter with calumny. *Swift.*
WEEKLY. *adv.* [from *week*.] Once a week; by hebdomadal
periods.
These are obliged to perform divine worship in their turns
weekly, and are sometimes called hebdomadal canons. *Ascham.*
WEEK. *n. f.* [from *weke*, Dutch; *wecka*, Swedish.]
1. A whirlpool.
2. A twiggan snare or trap for fish, [perhaps from *weilow*.]
To WEEN. *v. n.* [from *ween*, Saxon; *weenen*, Dutch.] To think;
to imagine; to form a notion; to fancy. *Obsolete.*
Ah lady dear, quoth then the gentle knight,
Well may I *ween* your grief is wondrous great. *Spenser.*
So well it her seems, that ye would *ween*
Some angel had been. *Spenser's Epithalamium.*
When *weening* to return, whence they did stray,
They cannot find that path which first was shown;
But wander to and fro in ways unknown,
Further from end then, when they nearest *ween*. *Fa. Queen.*
Thy father, in pity of my hard distress,
Levy'd an army, *weening* to redeem
And reinstate me in the diadem. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*
Ween you of better luck,
I mean, in perjur'd witness, than your master,
Whose minister you are, while here he liv'd
Upon this naughty earth. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*
They *ween'd*
That self-same day, by fight or by surprise,
To win the mount of God; and on his throne
To set the envy of his state, the proud
Aspirer; but their thoughts prov'd fond and vain. *Milton.*
To WEEP. *v. n.* preter. and part. pass. *weep'd*, *weep'd*. [from *wean*,
Saxon.]
1. To show sorrow by tears.
In that sad time
My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear;
And what these sorrows could not hence exhale,
That beauty hath, and made them blind with *weeping*, *Shak.*
I fear he will prove the *weeping* philosopher when he grows
old, being so full of unmanly sadness in his youth. *Shakespeare.*
The days of *weeping* and mourning for Moses were ended. *Dante, xxxiv. 8.*
Have you *wept* for your sin, so that you were indeed sorrow-
ful in your spirit? Are you so sorrowful that you hate it? Do
you so hate it that you have left it? *Taylor.*
Away, with women *weep*, and leave me here,
Fix'd, like a man, to die without a tear,
Or save, or slay us both. *Dryden.*
A corps it was, but whose it was, unknown;
Yet mov'd, how'er, she made the case her own;
Took the bad omen of a shipwreck'd man,
As for a stranger *weep*. *Dryden.*
When Darius *wept* over his army, that within a single age
not a man of all that confluence would be left alive, Artaba-
nus improv'd his meditation by adding, that yet all of them
should meet with so many evils, that every one should wish
himself dead long before. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*
This lovely *weeping* fair cannot be dearer to thee,
Than thou art to thy faithful Scordid. *Rass.*
2. To shed tears from any passion.
Then they for sudden joy did *weep*,
And I for sorrow sung,
That such a king should play bo-peep,
And go the fools among. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*
3. To lament; to complain.
They *weep* unto me, saying, give us flesh that we may eat. *Nam.*
To WEEP. *v. a.*
1. To lament with tears; to bewail; to bemoan.
If thou wilt *weep* my fortunes, take my eyes. *Shakespeare.*
Nor was I near to close his dying eyes,
To wash his wounds, to *weep* his obsequies. *Dryden.*
We wand'ring go
Through dreary walds, and *weep* each other's woe. *Pope.*
2. To shed moisture.
Thus was this place
A happy rural seat of various view,
Groves whose rich trees *weep'd* od'rous gums and balm. *Mil.*
Let India boast her plants, nor envy we
The *weeping* amber or the balmy tree,
While by our oaks the precious loads are borne. *Pope.*
And realms commanded which those trees adorn.
3. To abound with wet.
Key-grass grows on clayey and *weeping* grounds. *Mortimer.*
WEEPER. *n. f.* [from *weep*.]
1. One who sheds tears; a lamenter; a bewailer; a mourner.
If you have serv'd God in a holy life, send away the wo-
men

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- men and the *weepers*: tell them it is as much intemperance to
weep too much as to laugh too much: if thou art alone, or
with sitting company, die as thou should'st; but do not die
impatiently, and like a fox caught in a trap. *Taylor.*
Laughter is easy; but the wonder lies,
What store of brine supply'd the *weeper's* eyes. *Dryden.*
2. A white border on the sleeve of a mourning coat.
WEIRISH. *adj.* [See WEARISH.] This old word is used by
Ascham in a sense which the lexicographers seem not to have
known. Applied to tastes, it means insipid; applied to the
body, weak and wat'ry: here it seems to mean sour; furly.
A voice not soft, weak, piping, womanish; but audible,
strong, and manlike: a countenance not *weirish* and crabbed,
but fair and comely. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*
To WEET. *v. n.* preterite *wet*, or *wete*. [from *wean*, Saxon; *weten*,
Dutch.] To know; to be informed; to have knowledge.
Obsolete.
Him the prince with gentle court did board;
Sir knight, mought I of you this court'sy read,
To *weet* why on your shield, so goodly fear'd,
Bears ye the picture of that lady's head? *Spenser.*
I bind,
On pain of punishment, the world to *weet*
We stand up peerless. *Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleopatra.*
But well I *weet* thy cruel wrong
Adorns a nobler poet's song. *Prior.*
WEETLESS. *adj.* [from *weet*.] Unknowing. *Spenser.*
WEVIL. *n. f.* [from *wevil*, Saxon; *wevel*, Dutch.] A grub.
A worm called a *weevil*, bred under ground, feedeth upon
roots; as parsnips and carrots. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Corn is so innocent from breeding of mice, that it doth not
produce the very *weevils* that live in it and consume it. *Bentley.*
WEZEL. *n. f.* [See WEASEL.]
I suck melancholy out of a fong, as a *weasel* sucks eggs. *Shak.*
The corn-devouring *weasel* here abides,
And the wife ant. *Dryden's Georg.*
WEFT. The old preterite and part. pass. from *To weave*. *Spens.*
WEFT. *n. f.* [from *weft*, French; *weft*, to wander, Islandick;
weft, Latin.]
1. That of which the claim is generally waved; any thing wan-
dering without an owner, and seized by the lord of the manour.
His horse, it is the herald's *weft*;
No, 'tis a mare. *Ben. Johnson's Underwoods.*
2. It is in *Bacon* for *weft*, a gentle blast.
The smell of violets exceedeth in sweetness that of spices,
and the strongest fort of smells are best in a *weft* air off. *Bac.*
WEFT. *n. f.* [from *weft*, Saxon.] The woof of cloth.
WEFTAGE. *n. f.* [from *weft*.] Texture.
The whole muscles, as they lie upon the bones, might be
truly tanned; whereby the *weftage* of the fibres might more
easily be observed. *Greut's Museum.*
To WEIGH. *v. a.* [from *weagan*, Saxon; *weghen*, Dutch.]
1. To examine by the balance.
Earth taken from land adjoining to the Nile, and preserved,
so as not to be wet nor wasted, and *weighed* daily, will not alter
weight until the seventeenth of June, when the river begin-
neth to rise; and then it will grow more and more ponderous,
'till the river cometh to its height. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Th' Eternal hung forth his golden scales,
Wherein all things created first he *weigh'd*. *Milton.*
2. To be equivalent to in weight.
By the exsuction of the air out of a glass-vessel, it made
that vessel take up, or suck up, to speak in the common lan-
guage, a body *weighing* divers ounces. *Boyle.*
3. To pay, allot, or take by weight.
They that must *weigh* out my afflictions,
They that my trust must grow to, live not here;
They are, as all my comforts are, far hence. *Shakespeare.*
They *weighed* for my price thirty pieces of silver. *Lech. xi.*
4. To raise; to take up the anchor.
Barbarossa, using this exceeding cheerfulness of his soldiers,
weighed up the fourteen gallees he had sunk. *Knolles.*
Here he left me, ling'ring here delay'd
His parting kifs, and there his anchor *weigh'd*. *Dryden.*
5. To examine; to balance in the mind.
Regard not who it is which speaketh, but *weigh* only what
is spoken. *Hooker.*
I have in equal balance justly *weigh'd*
What wrongs our arms may do, what wrongs we suffer,
And find our griefs heavier than our offences. *Shak. H. IV.*
The ripeness or unripeness of the occasion must ever be well
weighed. *Bacon.*
His majesty's speedy march left that design to be better
weighed and digested. *Clarendon.*
You chose a retreat, and not 'till you had maturely *weighed*
the advantages of rising higher, with the hazards of the
fall. *Dryden.*
All grant him prudent; prudence interest *weighs*,
And interest bids him seek your love and praise. *Dryden.*
The mind, having the power to suspend the satisfaction of
any of its desires, is at liberty to examine them on all sides,
and *weigh* them with others. *Locke.*

WEI

- He is the only proper judge of our perfections, who *weighs*
the goodness of our actions by the sincerity of our intentions.
Addison's Spectator.
6. To WEIGH down. To overbalance.
Fear *weighs* down faith with shame. *Daniel's Civ. War.*
7. To WEIGH down. To overburden; to oppress with weight;
to depress.
The Indian fig boweth so low, as it taketh root again; the
plenty of the sap, and the softness of the stalk, making the
bough, being overladen, *weigh* down. *Bacon.*
In thy blood will reign
A melancholy damp of cold and dry;
To *weigh* thy spirits down. *Milton.*
Her father's crimes
Sit heavy on her, and *weigh* down her prayers;
A crown usurp'd, a lawful king depos'd,
His children murder'd. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*
My soul is quite *weigh'd* down with care, and asks
The soft refreshment of a moment's sleep. *Addison's Cato.*
Excellent persons, *weighed* down by this habitual sorrow of
heart, rather deserve our compassion than reproach. *Addison.*
To WEIGH. *v. n.*
1. To have weight.
Exactly *weighing* and strangling a chicken in the scales, upon
an immediate ponderation, we could discover no difference in
weight; but suffering it to lie eight or ten hours, until it grew
perfectly cold, it *weighed* most sensibly lighter. *Brown.*
2. To be considered as important; to have weight in the intel-
lectual ballance.
This objection ought to *weigh* with those, whose reading is
designed for much talk and little knowledge. *Locke.*
A wife man is then best satisfied, when he finds that the same
argument which *weighs* with him has *weighed* with thousands
before him, and is such as hath born down all opposition. *Addis.*
3. To raise the anchor.
When gath'ring clouds o'ershadow all the skies,
And shoot quick lightnings, *weigh*, my boys, he cries. *Dry.*
4. To bear heavily; to press hard.
Can't thou not minister to a mind diseas'd,
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleave the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff
Which *weighs* upon the heart? *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*
WEIGHED. *adj.* [from *weigh*.] Experienced.
In an embassy of weight, choice was made of some sad per-
son of known experience, and not of a young man, not
weighed in state matters. *Bacon.*
WEIGHER. *n. f.* [from *weigh*.] He who weighs.
WEIGHT. *n. f.* [from *weigh*.]
1. Quantity measured by the balance.
Tobacco cut and *weighed*, and then dried by the fire, loseth
weight; and, after being laid in the open air, recovereth *weight*
again. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Fain would I chuse a middle course to steer;
Nature's too kind, and justice too severe;
Speak for us both, and to the balance bring,
On either side, the father and the king;
Heav'n knows my heart is bent to favour thee;
Make it but scanty *weight*, and leave the rest to me. *Dryd.*
Boerhaave fed a sparrow with bread four days, in which
time it eat more than its own *weight*; and yet there was no
acid found in its body. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
2. A mass by which, as the standard, other bodies are examined.
Just balances, just *weights* shall ye have. *Lev. xix. 36.*
Undoubtedly there were such *weights* which the physicians
used, who, though they might reckon according to the *weight*
of the money, they did not weigh their drugs with pieces of
money. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
When the balance is intirely broke, by mighty *weights*
fallen into either scale, the power will never continue long in
equal division, but run intirely into one. *Swift.*
3. Ponderous mass.
A man leapeth better with *weights* in his hands than with-
out; for that the *weight*, if proportionable, strengtheneth the
finews by contracting them; otherwise, where no contraction
is needful, *weight* hindereth: as we see in horfetraces, men are
curious to foresee that there be not the least *weight* upon the
one horse more than upon the other. In leaping with *weights*,
the arms are first cast backwards, and then forwards, with so
much the greater force. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Wolley, who from his own great store might have
A palace or a college for his grave,
Lies here interr'd;
Nothing but earth to earth, no pond'rous *weight*
Upon him, but a pebble or a quoit:
If thus thou lie'st neglected, what must we
Hope after death, who are but shreds of thee? *Bp. Corbet.*
All their confidence
Under the *weight* of mountains bury'd deep. *Milton.*
Pride, like a gulf, swallows us up; our very virtues, when
so leavened, becoming *weights* and plummetts to sink us to the
deeper ruin. *Government of the Tongue.*